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mission statement

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shown towards them/us. People do not realize the sacrifices each of them/us make when we decide (or someone decides for us) to leave our countries.

My parents told me many things, but failed to tell me that leaving Jalostotitlán would shape my identity in ways that, up to this date, I am still trying to understand. They forgot to tell me that I would have an in-between identity. I like to think that my identity is the better part of two worlds, even though I will never fully belong to either world.

Claudia Snow

My mother had been promised an education for one of her children here in the United States from a family friend that we had met in Peru. So after my sister finished school, she got married and decided to stay in the states. My mother moved to Utah to help with her first child, and my other sister and brother also decided to make the move to Utah. So I found myself alone with my family 6000 miles away.

Family is important to me, so I decided to make the move to be close to family once again. I arrived in Salt Lake City for the millennium speaking very little English and only knowing my family. There were some differences upon arriving to the United States that excited me and scared me.

One of the first was my traditional greeting. I never considered it unusual until I came here—in Peru, it is custom to give a kiss on the cheek when you meet someone. I remember the first time I tried to kiss an American on the cheek. She kept moving away from me as I kept moving towards her. She reacted with discomfort and was shocked by my proximity to her face. I have to admit, I still enjoy this reaction when I greet both friends and strangers.

Oh how I loved the snow that falls here in Utah! So soft, quiet and clean, making the whole world so beautiful and so different. I love to watch it snow. Growing up on the equator, my only experience with snow was ice on high mountain peaks. It took time getting used to driving and living in the snow. Fortunately, after living here for a while I realized that I was not the only one having issues driving in the snow. Another thing that I really love are the freeways. They are great, straight and wide—nothing like the roads we have in Peru. They make getting from one place to another so easy, fast, and direct. But they, like the snow, took some time to get used to.

I don’t ever feel that I completely fit into my new society here in America, but I was surprised when I traveled back to Peru and found out that I don’t exactly fit there either. My friends giggled at my new Spanish accent. Ways that I used to do things in Peru are different than they do them in the USA. And now I could see how they were different and better than my old ways. I find myself with my feet in two different worlds, not really fitting into either completely, but being part of both at the same time. This gives me perspective that I would not have if I had stayed in Peru. I feel privileged that I can have so much in common with two very distinct cultures.

Living in two countries has

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On the third Wednesday of each month from 12:00-1:30, the SADC sponsors a seminar. Put us on the calendar.

**Not Yet Post-Racial: A Continuing Conversation on the Significance of Race**
Dr. Maria Ledesma  
Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership & Policy  
March 21  
Union, Parlor A

**Spirituality in the 21st Century**
Jan Saeed, Westminster College  
May 16  
Union, Parlor A

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**Women’s Week - Edie Kochenour Memorial Lecture**

"Girls are Bad and Math and Science ... or Are They?"

The 2012 Edie Kochenour Memorial Event will feature Dr. Janet Hyde, Professor of Psychology and Women’s Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Hyde will address the ways socialization of girls and young women can lead to a premature limiting of vocational and life choices.

Her studies have suggested that men and women are more psychologically alike than they are different. However, the belief that men and women differ significantly in cognitive ability, communication style and social traits continues. “Such beliefs cause harm in numerous realms, including women’s opportunities in the workplace...” according to Hyde.

The lecture will take place in the auditorium in Orson Spencer Hall on Friday March 23 at from 12:00 noon to 1:15 pm. Networking and a light lunch will be available from 11:15 to 11:45 am in the Union Lounge (south end of the Union Building). Register online at: http://training.hr.utah.edu/registration.jsp?class_ids=277

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**In-between, con’t**

Given me a perspective on diversity and race that I did not have when I was growing up in Peru. There I was part of the majority and issues of race and equality were not even an issue. However, when I came to the US and found myself part of a minority, I began to understand the problems and privileges that exist in both societies. It has been a great learning and growing experience for me as a person and I have felt lucky to have made the journey. I feel so empowered by my diversity and seek to share this perspective with others and help them see the power that comes from diversity.